

FISCAL NOTE
HB 900 - SB 863

February 26, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires that local education agencies (LEAs) provide suspended or expelled students in grades K-6 with an option of in-school suspension or alternative school. These students may not be suspended or expelled out of school. Current law requires LEAs to provide an alternative school option for suspended or expelled students in grades 7-12, and they *may* provide alternative school for suspended or expelled students in grades K-6.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures – Exceeds \$6,000,000*

Assumptions:

- The estimated costs would vary by system depending on the existing capacity to serve K-6 students in in-school suspension or alternative school programs. Such costs would also vary based on the number of suspended and expelled students per system.
- Adding teachers at the local level to administer alternative schools would not impact the current number of teachers generated by the BEP.
- It is estimated that each LEA that places K-6 students in an alternative setting would provide a teacher for the students. Using an average teacher salary and benefits of \$48,655 and assuming that each of the 136 LEAs in the state would require at least one teacher to comply with the provisions of this bill, it is estimated that local government expenditures would increase by at least \$6,600,000.
- Other issues that would need to be considered would be the impact on needs for capital improvements, transportation, special education and other student support services.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director